

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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R 100758Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0800

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0092

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UV

SUBJ: PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH TRADE UNIONS

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 0024

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROCURE COPY OF LETTER ADDRESSED TO TRADE UNION LEADERS BY PRESIDENT LAMIZANA ON JANUARY 7. LETTER REFERS TO PREVIOUS COMMUNICATION FROM TRADE UNION LEADERS TO PRESIDENT DATED DEC 15, 1975 AND TO MEETING BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS AND GOUV ON DEC 26 (OUAGA 3233).

2. REGARDING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PRESIDENT RECALLS IN HIS LETTER STEPS ALREADY TAKEN BY GOUV TO INCREASE PURCHASING POWER OF SALARIED WORKERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS, AND ANNOUNCES INCREASES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1 IN ALLOCATIONS GRANTED TO SECONDARY SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. HE ALSO STATES THAT GOUV IS PRESENTLY STUDYING POSSIBILITY

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OF LIGHTENING FISCAL BURDEN IMPOSED ON SALARIED WORKERS

AND ESTABLISHING STRICT CONTROLS OVER PRICES.

3. REGARDING ALLEGED VIOLATIONS BY GOUV O DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS, PRESIDENT EXPRESSES SURPRISE AT POSITION TAKEN BY TRADE UNIONS AND TAKES POSITION THAT DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GUARANTEED BY MILITARY REGIME. HE CITES AS PROOF FACT THAT TRADE UNIONS HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED COMPLETE FREEDOM AND HAVE, IN FACT, MADE GOOD USE OF THIS FREEDOM.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE, PRESIDENT STATES THAT HE IS IN FAVOR OF IT, BUT THAT THIS QUESTION IS OF VITAL INTEREST TO ENTIRE NATION. BEFORE SUBMITTING ANY PROPOSAL ON A NEW CONSTITUTION, PRESIDENT MUST, THEREFORE, CONSULT NOT ONLY TRADE UNIONS BUT ALL VOLTAN OPINION MAKERS. SAME IS TRUE OF OTHER POLITICAL PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY TRADE UNION LEADERS IN THEIR LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF DECEMBER 26. PRESIDENT CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT HE WILL KEEP TRADE UNION LEADERS INFORMED OF RESULTS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH TRADE UNIONS AND THAT HE IS PERSONALLY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS SOME OF THEIR POLITICAL DEMANDS. IT APPEARS ALSO THAT TRADE UNION LEADERS HAVE AGREED TO GIVE PRESIDENT MORE TIME TO PUT FORWARD CONCRETE PROPOSALS. ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT DAILY "L'OBSERVATEUR" OF JANUARY 9, TRADE UNIONS HAVE TENTATIVELY SET DATES OF FEB 2, 3 AND 4 FOR A THREE DAY GENERAL STRIKE IN THE EVENT THEY DO NOT OBTAIN SATISFACTION FROM GOUV.
GRAHAM

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